

ANTI-PROHIBITION LEAGUE MAKES AN APPEAL TO CITIZENS

(Continued from page one)

to unload the water system on the city, and there are many who now know that when the system was taken over by the city and the water tower erected, the city was in debt in the sum of \$10,000 for the tower in addition to the \$25,000 for which it had voted the bonds to purchase the system and erect the tower, and also that this additional \$10,000 was added to the city without the vote of the people, and upon which \$10,000 the taxpayers were paying ten or twelve per cent interest instead of the low rate of six per cent which the bonds drew.

There are also those who know that when our adviser severed his connection with the city council, instead of the water works being run by the chief of police, there were several additional employees and the city was losing in the neighborhood of \$150 per month on the system, and it was left up to those who succeeded him in his official position to devise means of paying the \$10,000 and to suppose the high rate of interest and of putting the water system on a self-supporting basis, which has by reason of conservative business methods been accomplished and the water system is now self-supporting and the consumers are getting more water and at a reduced rental.

The figures can be verified from an inspection of the City records.

If the advice of the former mayor in the matter above referred to was so erroneous and expensive to the taxpayers of this city, is it any more likely to be correct upon the local option issue?

Let us say that we believe that the judge ment well in all that he has advised, but time and observation has shown that "though he was conscientious, his judgment was inaccurate and his prophecy was false."

Silas May.

THERE ARE NONE SO BLIND AS HE WHO WILL NOT SEE

I was somewhat amused, as well as disgusted, when my attention was called to the communication of a well-known citizen, which appeared in a recent issue of the Sun; in which the well known citizen purported to relate his experience while in the city of Amarillo on Tuesday, September 16, 1915. This experience was related presumably to aid the cause of local option in Tucumcari. The worthy gentleman makes the statement in that communication that he failed to see a "FOR RENT" sign in Amarillo, nor did he observe any "Vacant" buildings, with one exception, and that one an old frame building formerly used for a tin shop; also that real estate men had advised him that it was almost impossible to rent a comfortable residence.

It seems rather remarkable that such a great change could take place in Amarillo in so short a space of time, as he had occasion to visit Amarillo on October 1, 1915; and we then found there without any special effort "FOR RENT" signs displayed in the following VACANT business buildings: Numbers 112 3rd street; 118 3rd St.; 403 South Taylor St.; 505 and 508 South Polk St.; 196 West Fifth St.; 516, 518 and 520 East 1st St.; 112, 300 308, 312, and 503 East 4th St.; these are all business buildings on paved streets in the best business district of the city. We did not visit the bowerly, but was content to remain in the best business districts of the city, making investigations. As to the gentleman's statement that real estate men had advised him that it was almost impos-

sible to rent comfortable residences, will say that we consulted four real estate men and could have rented from them THIRTY-ONE residence properties in the city, at an average rental on the THIRTY-ONE COMFORTABLE HOMES of \$13.10 per month; in this connection we found excellent furnished rooms renting at \$5.00 per month, and any number of them to be had at that price; also we noticed numerous "ROOMS FOR RENT" signs on nice residences; also learned from reliable authority that the Griffin Bldg formerly rented for \$300.00 per month is now rented for the sum of \$80.00 per month since local option went into effect.

Amarillo received a shipment of a car load of BOOZE from Texico, N. M., in one day during the recent fair. Amarillo has one of the largest tax rates of any city in Texas.

The records of the District Court of Potter county, Texas, of which county the City of Amarillo is the county seat shows that from November 16th, 1911 until November 16th, 1914, a period of two years, that THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINE CASES were filed in the District Court of the county, and that SEVENTY PER-CENT of such cases filed were what is termed WHISKEY or BOOTLEGGING cases, now who paid the expenses of these prosecutions? Bootlegging is a felony in that state.

These are the true facts, and the people insist that the record must be kept straight; no man, however exalted, his position in this community may be, has any right to endeavor to mislead this people.

While I believe that the open licensed saloon under official supervision, is the best method yet proposed for the handling of the liquor traffic, yet I am not so prejudiced in my views on the subject, that I for one moment would countenance the practice of any misleading or fraudulent tactics in the interests of Anti-Prohibition. I cheer fully accord to every human being the right to differ with me on this subject or any other, but I have no patience with the bitter partisan who will resort to deceptive tactics in order to strengthen the cause he espouses; the cause must unquestionably be wrong when such tactics are required. The American people love fairness; it is said that incorrect statements resemble illegotten gains, in that they profit no man.

The gentleman must have been stricken with blindness while visiting the city of Amarillo, else no such report would have been made to these people. Verily "There are none so BLIND as HE who will not SEE."

Harry K. Grubbs.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 24, 1915.
Dear Friend Fowler:

Your very kind letter of recent date received, am still living in Pueblo but have not engaged in any kind of business yet—came here on some business a few days ago and will probably leave for home to-morrow.

I see by your letter you are going to have a wet and dry election soon. You have as I see it a splendid little town, started on a dry prairie only a few years ago, it grew and prospered slowly but surely through all trials and tribulations that a new town usually encounters, until it has reached the stage to where if left to continue business in its present progressive channel, undisturbed by those who would proclaim themselves the Saviors of the country, would soon free itself from debt and become an independent little City, free from exorbitant taxation and a good place in which to live.

I am in no wise connected with the liquor interests myself, but it often comes to my mind in such manner that I compare a few dry towns that I know, with near by wet ones; take as an illustration the town of Kansas City Kansas, compare it with Kansas City, Mo. Taxes are much higher and most property is not 1-20th of the value yet the two towns are only divided by a street—an imaginary line

and vacant land near Kansas City, Ka. is worth from 100 to \$200 per acre and no buyers, while land same distance from Kansas City, Mo., but that is in the state of Missouri, is worth from \$1000 to \$5000 per acre and sells readily. There is an occasional resident building put up in Kansas City, Ka., but of the cheapest kind while in Kansas City, Missouri, every one knows what it is—nothing better, some one might say, "Oh, well, look at the large packing industry, Kansas City, Mo., has but those plants are located in Kansas City, Kas., and the people put their money in Kansas City, Mo., Galena, Kansas, and Joplin, Mo. offer a similar illustration only more so, property in Galena is not worth the taxes levied against it, 1/2 the buildings are vacant, \$150,000.00 hotel is standing idle, while Joplin affords a million dollar hotel filled to overflowing and all Joplin property is valuable accordingly.

I could write a book on this subject but I do not believe the people of Tucumcari are foolish enough to want to change their good condition, anyway as one who has not lost confidence in the judgment of good sound thinking people, I hope not. Kind regards to yourself and Mrs. Fowler, and hoping to hear from you soon.

Your friend,

W. T. Emberton

STORY WITH A COMEBACK

The following story may, "perhaps" be appropriate by way of illustrating some of the estimates made by one of our fellow townsmen at a prohibition meeting recently.

The story whose author is "perhaps" unknown runs as follows:

"A laborer was breaking rock on a street near one of New York's fashionable residential districts. A gentleman, apparently of leisure, stood watching the work. It being about noon time the workmen went into a nearby saloon and returned with a mug of beer and after getting his lunch basket proceeded to eat the lunch and drink the beer. After finishing his frugal meal, he contentedly began to smoke his cob pipe.

The on-looker then approached him beginning the conversation with some common place remarks changed the discourse to inquiries concerning the habits of the laborer running about like this. 'My friend, how old are you? How long have you been a drinking man? For how many years have you smoked? How many drinks have you been accustomed to taking per day? How much tobacco do you use daily? Having received answers to his inquiries, he took out his note book and pencil and after some figuring, he next asked his new acquaintance if he had noticed a beautiful brown stone residence a short distance away and having received an affirmative reply, announced to his new curious companion that if he had not indulged in the cups nor courted 'Mi Lady Nicotine' he could have owned the building mentioned. After contemplating the situation a moment the laborer turned questioner and asked his interrogator if he had never stubbed his toe, or whiffed the aroma from a Missouri Merschaum? Receiving an emphatic no for each answer, he then expectantly asked if his inquiring friend owned such a palace? AH, ME, ER WYER, N-N-no, good afternoon."

Will the judge in his next kindly explain how making the city dry will build the homes pictured in his last for those who have never looked upon the wine when it is red?

M. B. Fowler.

Tucumcari, N. M., Sept. 21, 1915
Mr. S. Vorenberg,
Wagon Mound, N. M.

Dear Sir—I have been informed that you favored prohibition in the recent election when Wagon Mound went dry, and I take the liberty of asking you as to whether or not Local Option has proven a success in your little city? Thanking you in advance for any information you can give me on this matter, I am very respectfully,

Harry K. Grubbs
Sept. 24, 1915

Mr. Harry K. Grubbs,
Tucumcari, N. M.

Dear Sir:—
Local option in Wagon Mound has not proven satisfactory to the people in general.

While the law has been fairly well enforced, as long as our surrounding towns sell liquor, whoever wants liquor can get it, and besides that blind tigers have been doing business.

Our authorities have tried hard to get to the bottom of these things, but have been unable to do so.

This has been our experience in Wagon Mound. Yours very truly

S. Vorenberg

A FEW TERSE QUESTIONS

Many lengthy articles have been published by those who favor the local option method of suppressing the liquor traffic and while we have read them with interest it does seem that many of them are rather theoretical than practical. Let us ask a few terse questions some going back a half century and some coming down to events of recent date and nearer home.

If local option prohibits and brings about the result desired, why are there now fewer states under local option regulation than there were in 1853?

Why did our sister city of Roswell invite the open saloon after trying the dry system?

Why did the leading business men of Roswell, many of them men who seldom even indulged in a social glass and some who never touched intoxicants, assume the active management of the campaign to vote to license the open saloon after seeing the results of local option suppression?

Why has our sister city of Dalhart again voted in the open saloon after trying the other system?

Why is it that in local option states every bootlegger and jointist votes to

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